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NBC Will Air Critical View of Garrison Case

The National Broadcasting Co. definitely will telecast tonight a program criticizing aspects of District Attorney Jim Garrison's assassination investigation in spite of objections by Garrison to the Federal Communications Commission.

William R. McAndrew, president of NBC News, said yesterday the network also expects Garrison to demand equal time and the network is "prepared for it."

The program, called "The JFK Conspiracy—The Case of Jim Garrison," is scheduled for 7 to 8 p. m. New Orleans time.

GARRISON HAS said the actions of NBC make him believe it has a "calculated objective" of destroying his case against Clay L. Shaw in his investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Garrison has obtained an indictment charging Shaw, a retired New Orleans businessman, with conspiring to assassinate Kennedy.

The DA sent a six-page letter of complaint to Rosel H. Hyde, chairman of the FCC, saying that NBC "has been so aggressive in attacking the state of Louisiana's case against Shaw prior to trial as to have gone far beyond the pretense of merely gathering and disseminating news."

GARRISON ASKED that NBC not be allowed "to use the public airways to accomplish such mean ends."

A spokesman for the FCC said in Washington yesterday that Garrison's letter had not been received. In any event, the spokesman said, the commission is prohibited by law from determining the content of television programs. He said Garrison could demand network time to respond to the program under the so-called fairness doctrine. The commission then would determine whether Garrison should be given the time.

The DA also criticized NBC's local affiliate, WDSU-TV Corp., saying that the local station's participation had included harassment of witnesses by at least one member of the WDSU staff.

A. Louis Read, WDSU president, made the following statement on the station's position:

"In his letter to the Federal Communications Commission, Mr. Garrison made specific allegations regarding WDSU-TV. These allegations have no basis in truth except for Mr. Garrison's statement that WDSU-TV actively aided NBC in its investigation of Mr. Garrison's tactics.

"As we have stated in past editorials, this station has been concerned with the tactics and methods used by District Attorney Jim Garrison in his assassination probe, and we believe his letter to the Federal Communications Commission is another example of this."

Read said the program will be carried tonight on WDSU.

The NBC program tonight will include a statement that two principal witnesses in Garrison's case against Shaw had previously failed lie detector tests.

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